Vol. III. Numb. 53.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the News from Italy. *Of the News from* Hungary. *Remarks on the* French *Account of the late Engagement at Sea.*

From **Wednesday** September the 20th, to **Saturday** September the 23th, 1704.

Country-m. NEWS, good News, Master *Observator*, more News from the Duke of *Marlborough*; I shall be as Fat as a Bacon Hog. 'Tis a strange thing to consider the Difference of Peoples Constitutions: I grow Fatter and Fatter every Day with good News, and the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* grow so Thin and Lean, that they look like so many Walking Skeletons: If one goes into a *Jacobites* Shop, we cannot well discern the Master of the Shop from the Paring-Shovel.

Obs. What Thund'ring News hast got? Out with it.

Country-m. I'll give it you in Rank and File; from Front to Rear, in Martial Order: From *Turin* we have an Account, That the Sieur *Bernardi*, who deliver'd up the Important Garison of *Suza*, has been Try'd and Convicted, and since has had his Head Chop'd off; and several other Officers, who serv'd under him, have been Condemn'd to the Gallies. Some Treacherous Commanders, in the Garison of *Verceil*, who have Behaved themselves like *Bernardi*, are to be Try'd, and I hope will have the same Fate. And there's one *Albergotti*, that has entred into a Treacherous Conspiracy against the Duke of *Savoy*: Hang these Treacherous Fellows; Rope take every Mothers Son of 'em.

Obs. Then you'll Hang the Best Friends the *French* King has, and Destroy the Best Engines he Works with. *France* has accomplish'd more by Treachery, Murder and Poyson, than ever it got by the Sword. Its Clandestine Practices has Work'd and Establish'd its Greatness; its Pistoles have gain'd it more Conquests than the Power of its Arms; and had we a true History of the Growth of the *Gallick* Empire, we should find that the Root of *French* Dominion has been Water'd with Blood and Poyson; and that its greatest Atchievements, have been Accomplished by Treachery: We know now that the Boasted Valour and Prowess of the Troops of *France*, is but meer Bounce and Huff; notwithstanding a Superiority of Forces (so much Idolized, as I may say, in the Inscriptions and Devices of *French* Pageantry) two Glorious Victories (such I think as I have not met with, in one Campaign, in *European* Histories) have been obtain'd by the Arms of *England*, and the Confederates, and that too over the Troops of the Invincible *Lewis*. But could the *French* Tyrant have got the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*, either Stabb'd or Poysoned, we had lost these Victories.

Country-m. Aye, Aye, that Son of *Mazarine* is the common Poysoner, as well as the common Disturber of the Peace of *Europe*.

Obs. Come, proceed with your News.

Country-m. I think I have a good piece of News from *Hungary*. The Male-Contents and the Emperour are likely to come to a good Understanding; there is a Cessation of Arms already, and 'tis said that the Male-Contents will comply with the Emperours Proposals. But some People at *London* tell me, *That there are many* Papists *among those* Protestants *in* Hungary. I don't like *Protestants* siding with *Papists*. Pray, Sir, your Opinion in this Point?

Obs. This is as good a Piece of News, as if we had another Victory. The Armies of the Confederates will hereby be Strength'ned, as otherwise they would be Weak'ned. The Forces employ'd against the *Hungarians* will be drawn off to other Stations, and will be employ'd about other Business, and the Empire will be able to Recruit its Forces from *Hungary*.

What you say of the *Hungarians* Confederating with *Papists*, has been a Reflection upon 'em, as if they were in a *French* Interest, promoted by the Partisans of *France*. But you must consider,

That the *Protestants* in *Hungary*, have a double Contest with the Emperour, The Recovery of their *Religion* and *Liberty*.

The *Papists* in *Hungary* joyn with the *Protestants*, not on the Account of *Religion*, but on the Account of *Property*; the Recovery of their Antient *Rights* and *Freedoms*: Now, tho' the *Papists* are the most Bigotted of Mankind to the Priesthood, and can freely commit the Keeping of their Souls to the Hands of the Clergy; yet their *Liberty*, and the Goods of *Fortune*, they are willing to keep in their own Hands; and they will join with *Protestants* in the Recovery of their *Antient Laws*; nor are the *Protestants* to Blame in accepting of such Assistance.

Country-m. Master, Why then the *Jacks* and *High-Flyers* in *England*, are the only Fellows that I know of in the whole World, that are willing to Surrender both Soul and Body to the Disposal of the Prince.

Obs. It will make a Man Smile to hear those Men Reflect upon the *Hungarians* for siding with the *Papists*. Pray, did *they* not side with the *Papists* in a late Reign? Have not I my self seen these True-Blue *Protestants* Tearing to pieces the Assemblies of *Protestants*, serving God, according to the Scriptures? And have I not known them Guard the Mass-Houses in the City from the Justice of the People? I say these People have the least reason to Reflect on the *Hungarians*.

Besides, let us examine into their Practice; the *Hungarians* never Surrender'd their Liberties to their Prince, but that the *Jacobites* did, to the late King *James*, not only by the Fulsome and Slavish Sermons of their Clergy, but by their Surrender of Charters; and when they had Preacht up their King above Law, and he thought he might meddle with them too, they, I mean the *Passive-Obedient*, *High-Flying*, *Tory* Clergy, were the first that Invited over the Prince of *Orange*: And pray, were the *Dutch* of the same Religion with

with the *High-Flyers*? Does not Her Majesty and the Allies, at this time Confederate with *Popish*-Powers, for the Common Good, and Interest of *Europe*? To compare Great things with Small; why may not the *Hungarians* do the like for their Common Interest?

For my part I don't examine into the Merits of the *Hungarians:* If their Cause be of God, he'll Bless them with Success. But 'tis worthy Observation how these *High-Flyers* are always flurting at them in their Speeches and Libels. These Men of Mischief, that are contented under no Government. The Cause of the *Hungarians* I know they hate, and yet I am sure they wish Success to it, because it does embaras the Affairs of the Confederates; and they'll Grieve heartily at an Accommodation; and they reflect on 'em only in Abuse to the *Protestant* Dissenters in *England*. Go on with your News.

Country-m. Now, Sir, if you please, we'll come to the Sea Stories, and over-haul the late Fight in the *Mediteranean*. Here's the *French* News, pray Sir, see what King *Lewis* says upon his Gazette.

Obs. The Post-Man and the other Papers have given us what they think convenient; but I'll examine the Account a little Nicely. They have Sung *Te Deum* in the *French* Kings Chappel for the Victory; and that they wou'd have done had they lost one half of their Fleet: *Lewis* employs most of his Devotion in Praises and Thanksgivings; if he falls down, and Breaks one of his Legs, he'll thank God that he has not Broke his Neck; and this seems to be a like occasion of Thanksgiving.

But 'tis a Victory, that's for certain; the *French* Fleet has soundly Beaten the *English*; but where are the Evidences? Why only the *Paris* Gazette; and even from that we can conclude but a very imperfect Victory; nay much less than a Victory. They do themselves acknowledge that they have not taken one of our Ships. They tell us that a Ship of theirs Boarded three times an *English* Ship, I suppose the *Monk*, and left her on Fire, and they could not see whether she Sunk or no, by reason of the Smoak: This is the Main thing that I can find they boast of. I am sure their Victory is so Cloudy and Misty, that one of better Eyes than my self must discover it. Any one of common Knowledge in Sea-Affairs, cannot, from their own Account, conclude a Victory on their side.

Now, let us consider the Account they give of the Numbers of their Slain, which amounts to 1500. I am afraid *Lewis* continues his old Trade of Leasing-Making: Our Account of our Numbers of the Slain, including Officers, is 695, and tho' this is Reputed by some People to be the Sharpest Engagement that ever was seen, we have had Engagements, in which a greater Number have been Kill'd in an Hours time, and I believe full that number in two single Ships; but enough of this.

Our whole Number, including Slain and Wounded, amounts to 2358, that is above 400 less than the *French*; now, who can believe this? The *French* were closely Attack'd by Sir *Cloudesly Shovel*; and by the *English* and *French* Account we must conclude that Sir *Cloudesly* intended a close Engagement: Yard-Arm to Yard-Arm, or to break each Line. I wish each Division had done the like, the *French* would then have told us another Story. But 'tis apparent that the Numbers of the *French* Kill'd and Wounded, must be much greater than they acknowledge; their Ships were double Mann'd, some of 'em, I believe, trebble Mann'd; and I am sure so closely Attack'd by some of our Ships, that among such great Numbers of Men, they must lose more than 1500 Men.

The *French* say that we had the Advantage of the Wind, which indeed is a great Advantage when we Fight in a Line. But if the *French* had been Victors, as they boast, and had destroy'd our Fleet, had they not been to Leward; why did not these Conquerours Engage again on the 15*th*, when they were to Windward of our Fleet? This seems but an excuse; for certainly when they had an Advantag they would have pursu'd it; and to tell us they have a Victory, when they have not Taken one of our Ships, or Destroy'd one of 'em, that we yet hear of, is a sort of a Bounce no Body can help Laughing at.

Country-m. But, Sir, the *French* had a great Advantage of us, in their Superiority of Guns, they had 600 great Guns more than us.

Obs. I think their Superiority of Men was a greater Disadvantage; to know truly the superiority of Guns, we must have a List of the *English* Ships with Guns, as we have of the *French*, and then by Computation, know how much each Ship, *English* and *Dutch*, was over Gun'd. Were I Commander of one of our Eighty Gun Ships, I should think my self worthy of Death, if I did not Fight the Count *de Tholouse*'s Ship of 104 Guns; and I am certain an *English* Built Ship of 80 Guns, can never miscarry in Fighting a First Rate of *France*, but by Accident, or want of Management.

But the greatest Disadvantage to Her Majesties Fleet was their want of Powder, with which, had they been supply'd, the *French* had never boasted of a Victory.

I shall take Leave of you with one Remark on this Account of the *French*. They keep still to their Old Custom of Reflection on those that do 'em the most Mischief, and of Commendation of such as never design'd 'em any. Witness the Flirt at Sir *Clowdesly*; tho' some Letters from *France* say how much they dreaded his being in the Fleet, and that Orders were given to avoid his Division as much as could be.

Country-m. That's the Practise of their Brethren in *England*, they cry down the Good Men, and extol the Good-for-nothing Fellows. Here's Sir *Clowdesly*'s good Health, with all my Spirit; he's a true Son of the Sea.

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An Account

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London, Printed and Sold by *J. How*, at the *Seven-Stars*, in *Talbot-Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*, 1704

Vol. III. Numb. 52.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Fight betwixt the English *and* French *Fleets. Remarks on the Liſt of* French *Privateers put to Sea, and ready to Sail.*

From **Saturday** September the 16th, to **Wednesday** September the 20th, 1704.

Country-m. WELL, Maſter *Obſervator*, I ſee you have look'd over the Papers that give an Account of the Sea Fighting-Story; I'll aſſure you, ſome People at *London* ſay 'tis the ſharpeſt Engagement that ever was ſeen.

Obſ. It was a ſharp Engagement with ſome of our Ships, that's certain, for they Shot away all their Powder; but I ſhan't determine the Point whether it was the ſharpeſt Engagement that ever was ſeen; I leave that to the Honeſt Sailors that were in the *Sole-Bay* Engagement, and the Fight at *La Hogue*, where we had 14 of the Enemies three Deck't Ships deſtroy'd by our Brave Tars. But the Account of the Ships we have taken and deſtroy'd in this Engagement is not yet come to Hand, and we don't know yet whether the *French* are beaten out of the *Mediteranean*, which would be the beſt Effect of this Battel.

Country-m. Why, what's the matter? You ſeem to make Scruples.

Obſ. Not I, nor will I Examine into the Merits of the Cauſe; I am ſure Ships can't Fight without Powder; nor was I to ſupply them with Powder; nor did I Shoot away their Powder to no purpoſe; if a Parliament Examines into this Affair I ſhall never be Queſtion'd. If we have got a Compleat Victory, if we have beaten the *French* out of the *Mediteranean*, or deſtroy'd their Ships there, I ſhall, like an Honeſt *Engliſh* Man, thank God and our Commanders; but by the Accounts I can't ſay and affirm that this is the ſharpeſt Engagement that ever was ſeen. I have Read too much of the Valour of our Anceſtors; I have known too much of our Actions at Sea in my Time, than to ſay *Amen* to that Poſition, that this is the ſharpeſt Engagement that ever was ſeen: Ever is a long Time, even from the Beginning of the World to this very Day.

Country-m. Well, Sir, we won't diſpute this Point. But don't you think tis a Compleat Victory?

Obſ. I don't know any Occaſion I have to tell you my Thoughts.

Country-m. You are very Cruſty; Pray be a little free with me.

Obſ. The Government ſays 'tis a Victory, and I never us'd to depend upon other Accounts than what are Publiſh'd by the Government. Here's the Account of the Fight, Printed in the *Flying-Poſt*, ſays, *That both Fleets gave over Firing as if by Conſent.* Then, pray, who were Victors? I tell thee you and I have nothing to do to Examine into the Merits of the Cauſe; leave that to the Parliament. But be it as it will I am glad of the Engagement, we can hold it longer than the *French*; and now we have a great many freſh Men that are Enter'd the Liſts of War, that never Fought before.

Country-m. Then they muſt pay Beveridge: But we have a great Loſs in Sir —— *Lake*, he's Kill'd.

Obſ. That's pity; he leap'd Over-board at *Vigo* and by that means ſav'd his Life, while his Surgeon and a few Scroby Fellows ſav'd his Ship, and then he came Aboard again like a Man.

Country-m. Scroby Fellows de'ye call thoſe that ſaved the Ship, I think they were Brave Fellows, and ought to be well Rewarded.

Obſ. It's no matter for that the poor Surgeon, not long ago, had not got Reward enough for that piece of Bravery to Buy him a Plaiſter-Box.

Country-m. But, Maſter *Obſervator*, I would fain have ——

Obſ. Thou ſhan't have one Word more of me concerning this Victory. It is enough that we have a Victory; be ſatisfy'd and Prate no more of it.

Country-m. Will you let me ſee the Letters you have in your Hand?

Obſ. No, I won't: Call another Cauſe.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, I have a Caſe of Conſcience to put to you, will you Reſolve me?

Obſ. Ay, if I can. What is it?

Country-m. Am I bound to believe all the News that is Publiſhed by Authory?

Obſ. Thou art Perniciouſly bent; I'll anſwer this Queſtion by a Story, *When the Duke of* Monmouth *was in Arms in the* Weſt *againſt King* James, *there was an Account on the* Gazette *of that Duke's being entirely Routed at* Phillips-Norton, *when indeed King* James's *Forces were beaten at that Place. This Account being Read at a Coffee-Houſe, a Citizen preſent, ſaid,* He would not believe it; *upon which a Red hot Loyaliſt ſeized the Perſon for no leſs than High Treaſon, and carried him before Sir* William Turner, *one of the beſt Magiſtrates that ever was known in the City for Impartial Juſtice. The Citizen was Accuſed of ſaying,* He would not believe the Kings Gazette; *ſays Sir* William, Did you ſay Friend, that you would not believe the Kings Gazette? Yes, *ſays the Citizen*, I did ſo; *Sir* William *continues*, And won't you believe the Kings Gazette? No, *ſays the Citizen*, I won't believe it. *Sir* William *breaking out into a great Paſſion*, ſays, Sirrah, the Gazette is Read ſeverval Times in Council before it is Printed; and won't you believe a Paper that has ſuch Authority, and the Royal *Imprimatur*? No, *ſays the Citizen*, I won't believe it. Then, *ſays Sir* William, Get thee about thy Buſineſs like a croſs Fellow as thou art; if thou wilt not believe it, I don't know how to make thee.

Now I believe my ſhare of all the Publick News, and ſo I do of this Account: But I can never believe it was the ſharpeſt Engagement that ever was ſeen.

We muſt conſider too how much of a Party there is in theſe Relations. Our Publick Prints, ſince our Fleet went to Sea, have given us, by

Times,